

# What is the Lay Leader Network?

## Mission statement

The Lay Leader Network is a program of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA, designed to educate and train lay people for leadership in the congregation, the community and in the synod.

It is intended to refine theological knowledge and leadership skills in addition to stressing personal enrichment, spiritual growth and the development of ministry skills.

## How are we organized?

The NE MN Synod, ELCA - Lay Leader Network has an advisory board consisting of both lay and rostered leaders, which guides programs, advises the coordinator, and oversees the budget of the LLN. The LLN receives a small amount of income from the Synod budget but largely depends upon program fees and gifts from member congregations.



For more information about the Lay Leader Network, please visit <http://www.nemnsynod.org/lay-leader-network.html>

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The Northeastern Minnesota Synod is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).



"to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."  
Ephesians 4:12

\*Yearly Intensive Educational Series

\*Annual Gathering

\*Ongoing Networking and other Opportunities

"Equipping and mobilizing lay leadership is absolutely on the cutting edge of mission, both in this country and globally."

The Rev. Dr. David Mesner

# LAY LEADER NETWORK

WELCOME TO THE LAY LEADER NETWORK!  
the Lay Leader Network (LLN)\* seeks to provide educational and resource/skill building opportunities that embody the belief in the "priesthood of all believers." As members of the body of Christ, we have been given gifts to share for mobilizing the church as it engages God's mission for the sake of the world.

The LLN offers a Yearly Intensive Series, annual gatherings, and various networking opportunities for lay people throughout the NE MN Synod. Participation in the cyclical Yearly Intensive Series is highly encouraged but it not required in order to be part of the "network" itself.

## ANNUAL GATHERING

Plans are underway to host our annual program/idea sharing gathering on 2/26/22. We will offer a presentation, resources, and opportunities to engage with other Lutheran lay leaders.

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

The LLN is currently exploring social media avenues to share information and build more collaboration among lay leaders within the NE MN Synod and resources within the ELCA.

\*The Lay Leader was formerly known as "the School of Lay Ministry".

## LAY LEADER NETWORK YEARLY INTENSIVE SERIES

The yearly intensive series is a life-long learning program, designed to give adult students opportunity to grow in faith for the purposes of spiritual development, biblical and theological learning and enhancing missional leadership. The series promotes intentional conversation for discerning gifts to be used in ministry and leadership within a person's current congregation and/or community.

### YEARLY INTENSIVES SERIES "at a glance"

Each program year comprises four day-long seminars led by accomplished Synod theologians, various assigned readings and tasks, opportunities to engage in group learning between seminars, and exercises encouraging individual discernment and spiritual growth.

Content includes:

- \*Biblical Study/Lutheran Theology (35%)
- \*Leadership and Spiritual Development (30%)
- \*Engaging Missional Context (20%)
- \*Specific Ministry Focus (15%)

The Yearly Intensive Series' biblical study content aligns with the ELCA lectionary, encouraging new students to enter the three-year program at any year.



## FAQs

### Who can join the Yearly Intensive Series?

Any person desiring a deeper understanding of God, with an open mind for biblical and theological learning through a Lutheran lens, and/or anyone seeking to build their capacity for living out a calling in their congregation and/or community as a leader and/or servant of Christ, is welcome to enter the Intensive Series.

### Why engage in the Intensive Series?

The Yearly Intensive Series may increase a student's confidence and ability to take on different or additional roles within their own congregation and/or community. The series may also encourage additional education or follow-on training.

### Is the LLN Intensive Series considered training to become a Deacon or Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAM)?

No. Involvement in the Lay Leader Network is for personal enrichment and it is NOT an avenue for rostered ministry within the church. People who wish to seek rostered ministry should contact the synod office and will need to complete candidacy requirements.

### What does it cost?

There is no cost to be part of the LLN. There is, however, a \$220 annual fee for the Yearly Intensive Series (does not include books, materials, or student travel expense). See website for fees pertaining to other events, gatherings, etc.